

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Definition:

Instructional objectives are measurable student behaviors which are developed prior to designing an educational activity. Objectives provide an organized approach to achieve the goal of what learners must exhibit to be considered competent. They ensure that learning is focused for both the student and the instructor.

The Components of an instructional objective:

- **Performance** – Identifies the activity (performance) required to achieve competence. Behavioral terms must be measurable and observable in order that the expected outcome is understood.

Example:

*Using standard equipment, the student will be able to **start an IV on a patient** within two tries.*

- **Condition** -- Describes the conditions or circumstances under which the performance is to occur.

Example:

***Using standard equipment**, the student will be able to start an IV on a patient within two tries.*

- **Criterion** – Specifies the criteria or standards by which competence in the activity is achieved.

Example:

*Using standard equipment, the student will be able to start an IV on a patient **within two tries**.*

Types of Objectives:

Cognitive – Includes information recall, conceptual understanding and problem-solving.

Psychomotor – Includes learning skills

Affective – Include attitudes, appreciations, and relationships

Tips for Writing Objectives:

- Keep objectives simple, unambiguous and focused as a guide to learning.
- Express objective in terms of student performance, behavior and achievement, not instructor activity.
- Answer the following questions in the affirmative:
 - ✦ Is the main intent stated?
 - ✦ Is there a description of what the learner will have (e.g. equipment, personnel, specific conditions, etc.) when demonstrating achievement of the objective?
 - ✦ Is there a description of how well the learner must perform to be considered competent?